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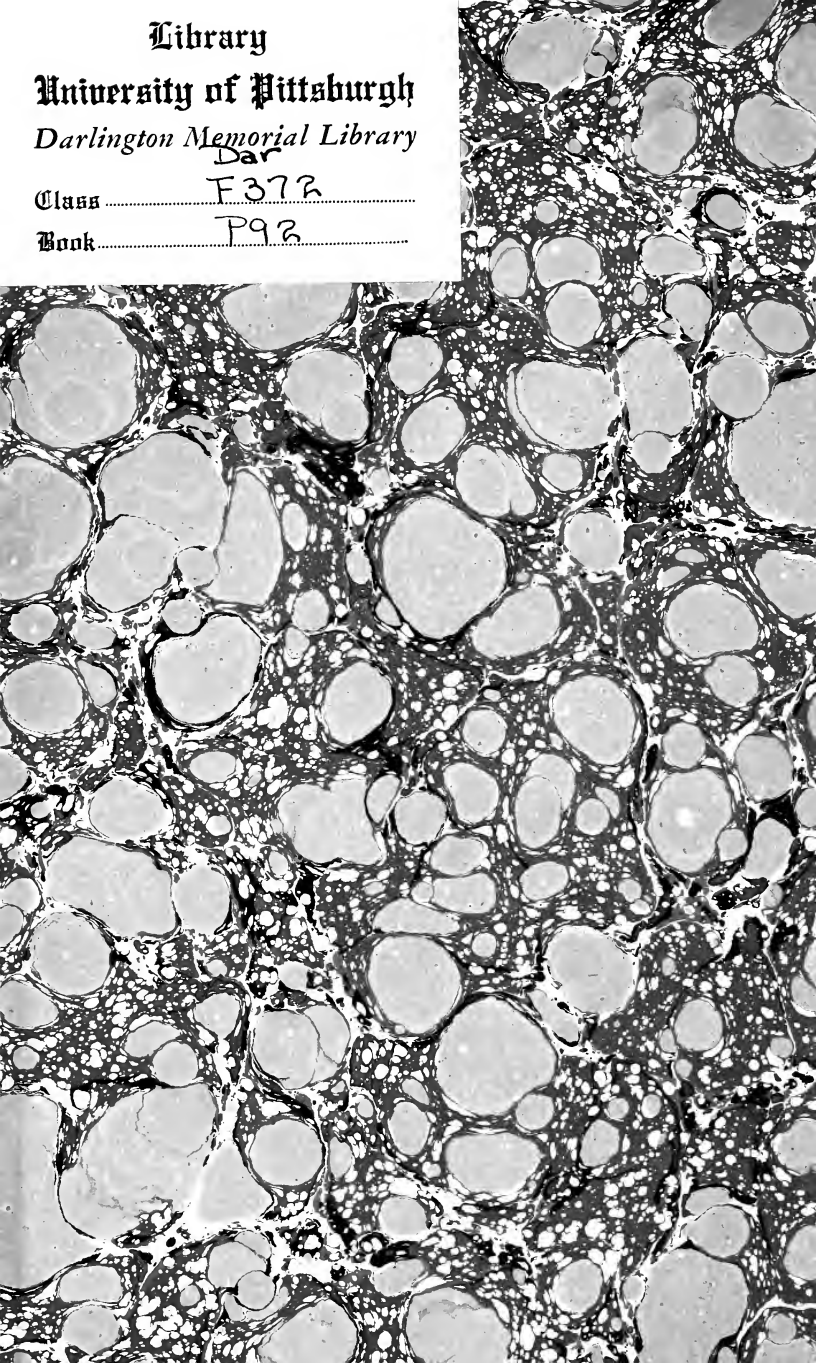
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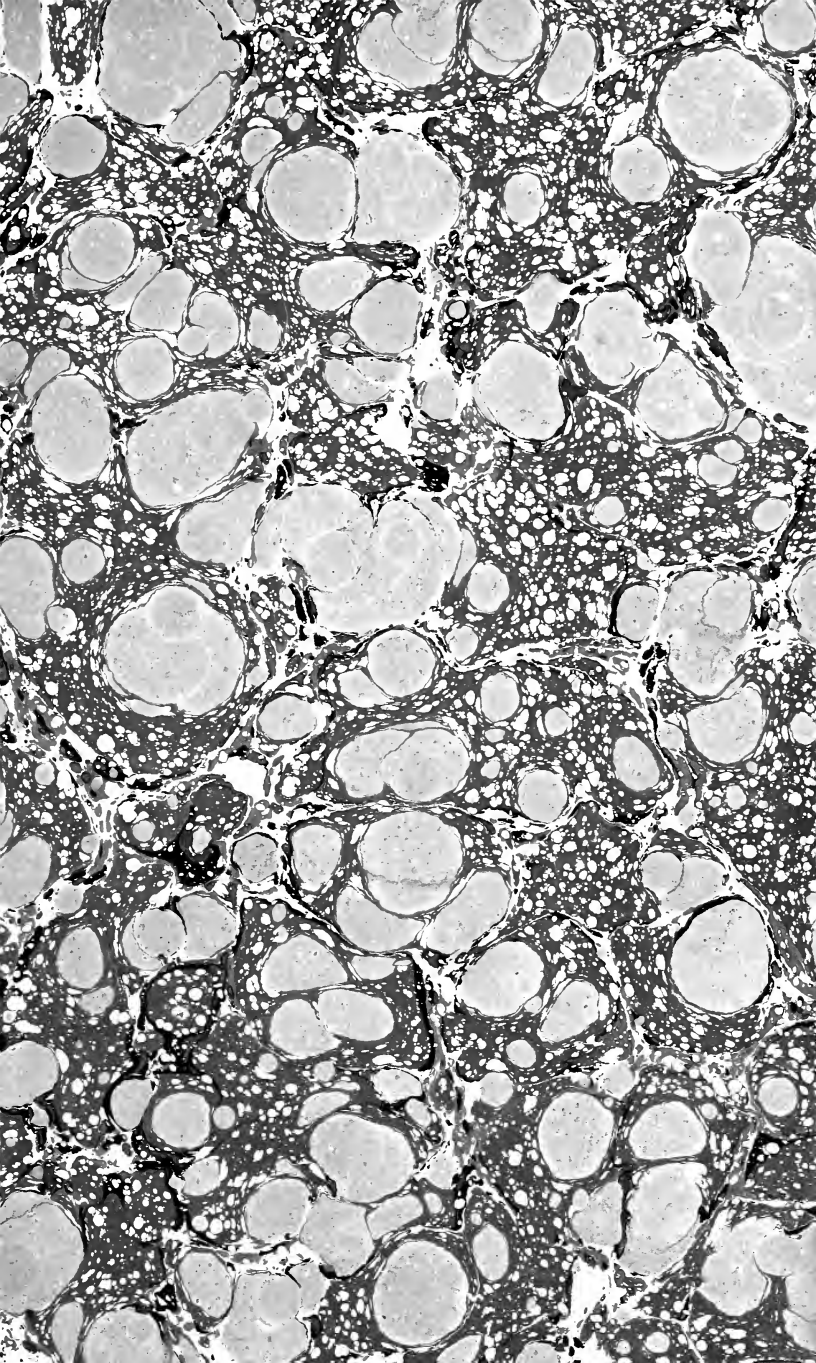
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THE
PRESENT STATE

OF THE

*Country and Inhabitants, Europeans and
Indians,*

O F

LOUISIANA,

On the North Continent of *America.*

By an *Officer at New Orleans* to his Friend at *Paris.*

CONTAINING

The Garrisons, Forts and Forces, Price of
all Manner of Provisions and Liquors, &c. also
an Account of their drunken lewd Lives, which
lead them to Excesses of Debauchery and Vil-
lany.

To which are added,

LETTERS from the Governor of that Province on
the Trade of the *French* and *English* with the Natives: Also
Proposals to them to put an End to their Traffick with the
English. Annual Presents to the Savages; a List of the
Country Goods, and those proper to be sent there, &c.
Translated from the *French* Originals, taken in the *Golden
Lyon* Prize, *Rafteaux*, Master, by the Hon. Capt. *Aylmer*,
Commander of His Majesty's Ship the *Portmabon*, and by
him sent to the *Admiralty Office*.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. MILLAN, near *Whitehall*. 1744.

(Price One Shilling.

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A SHORT
ACCOUNT
OF
LOUISIANA.

MONSIEUR *de la Salle*, a Norman, was the first who discovered *Louisiana*, above 50 Years ago. He got thither through *Canada* ; that is, he went down the River *Mississippi* as far as the Gulph of *Mexico*, where it falls into the Ocean. Before him, the *English* had attempted to go up the River ; but when they came to a certain Winding, which forms a Circle, only 7 Leagues below New Orleans,

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leans, they conjectured, upon finding themselves much about the Place from whence they departed the Evening before, that they were got to the End, and could go no further ; whereupon they returned back. From hence this Place is called the *Detour des Anglois*.

BOTH the beginning and ending of that Winding, are, I think, to the East ; so that, in the Space of two or three Hours, one has the Sun both before and behind ; and this it was that deceived the poor *English*. Monsieur *de la Salle*, who came down the *Mississippi* as far as the Gulph, went back the same Way up to *Canada* ; from whence he returned to *France*, and made Application to the King for a Ship, in order to compleat the Discovery of this Country, which was accordingly granted to him. By this
Means

Means the *Louisiana* belongs to the *French*.

THE Country was found inhabited all along the *Mississippi* by small savage Nations, who had no Manner of Knowledge of the *French*: They might, however, have seen, or heard talk of white Men, because the *English*, and after them the *French*, had discovered, and taken Possession of the Island of *Mobile*, which is called Fort *Condé*. Ten Leagues from thence, upon the Sea Shore, stands Fort *Dauphin*, which is called *Massacre*, because the Savages destroyed and massacred at that Place an infinite Number of the *English*. One hundred Leagues from *Mobile*, going up a River of the same Name, is a Port called *Tombekbé*, where there is a commanding Officer and a Garrison.

ABOVE 100 Leagues from *Mobile*, pursuing the Course of the River of the *Alibamons*, stands Fort *Toulouse*, where there is likewise a commanding Officer and a Garrison.

THESE Countries are inhabited by the *Chicacas*, a savage Nation, against whom we have hitherto stood upon our Guard ; but we are now treating about Peace with them ; they are quitting the Side of the *English*, and Mr. *Vaudreuil* is just gone to *Mobile* to treat with their Chiefs, and to receive their Presents, and give them others ; for these Gentry make Presents *Pilla*, that is, *Gratis*, provided Presents are also made to them. There we have also the *Chaktas*, or Flat-heads, about 5000 Men fit to bear Arms, who are our great Friends, and declared Enemies of the *Chicacas*, whose Friends they will become,

come, if Peace is concluded. They are called *Chaktas*, because their Heads are really flat ; occasioned by this, that as soon as they are born, and during their Infancy, their Heads are bound very tight with Bandages, insomuch that they can look up perpendicularly, without lifting up their Heads. I shall slightly pass over these Cantons, because I have not been among them ; I only know, that the Way to them is through the Lake of *Ponchartrain*, which lies a League from *New Orleans* to the Northward. It is easy to conclude, that the Nations which the *French* found along the *Mississippi*, did not carry on any Commerce : They dwelt, as they do still, in wooden Cabbins very ill built, and distant enough from each other, and do not appear like Cities or Towns ; they call them Villages.

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THE Custom is to travel on the River, it not being possible to make long Journeys by Land, because of the bad Roads, Morasses that must be traversed, thick Forests, and the Difficulty of finding Victuals, tho' wild Oxen, Kids and wild Fowl might be found ; but then, as there could be no other Way of going than on Foot, a Man could not carry a sufficient Quantity of Powder and Shot. It would be more easy for the Savages, who walk very well in the Woods, and esteem it but a small Matter to live several Days without eating ; but they nevertheless perform their Journeys by Water, excepting the *Chicacas*, who are much afraid of it.

WE have an open Trade with the *Spaniards* and *Americans* ; by *Americans*, I mean the Merchants who
come

come from St. *Domingo* and *Mart-nico* by Sea. There is no going into *America* by the River *Mississippi*, the Source of which is not discovered ; and it is navigated upon no farther than from the Sea as high as the Red River, 200 Leagues from *New Orle-ans*, where one Leaves it to go to the *Nanchez* ; and from thence, by other Rivers, as far as the *Illinois* ; from whence one goes on to *Canada*, partly by Land and partly by Water : In order to do so, Canoes are made of the Bark of Trees, which are bound with Twigs, and which two Men carry where there is a Foot-way ; and you get into them to cross any Morasses, Lakes or Bays which inter-vene. I have never been this Jour-ney, and therefore speak of it only from Hear-say.

HERETOFORE we traded with the *Spaniards*, to whom we carried proper
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Merchandizes, for which they paid in good Piaſtres ; but *Monſieur Vaudreuil* has forbid carrying any more to them ; if they want us, they muſt come to us. It is to be preſumed, that he has ſufficient Reaſons for hindering theſe Voyages.

WE trade at preſent with the *Americans*, to whom, for their Stuffs and Rum, we give Piaſtres, or other Goods, chiefly Peaſe and Beans, which are very rare, eſpecially at *Martinico* ; we alſo ſupply them with Timber for building Ships. To the Merchants who bring Stuffs, Cloth, Wine, Brandy, Liquors, Arms and Meal from *France*, we give, in Exchange, Tobacco, Rice, Mahis, Cotton, Indigo, Skins, Pine-wood, Cyprus, Cedar, Log-wood, Pitch, Tar, or Piaſtres ; Paper Bills having no Currency but in the Colony : We do alſo give them Bills of Exchange : Laſtly, we ſupply

supply the Savages with Fufils, Powder, Shot, Knives, Needles, Razors, Vermillion, Woollen, Ribbons, Blankets, Shirts, blew and red Cloth, and Brandy well mixed with Water ; for which we get Skins of wild Oxen, Kids, Otters, Beavers, Venifon, or wild Fowl, and whatever else they can get that pleases. Thefe, alfo, who come often to *New Orleans* take Paper Notes in Payment.

THE *French* live fociably enough, but the Officers are too free with the Town's People ; and the Town's People that are rich are too proud and lofty ; their Inferiors hardly dare fpeak to them, and here, as every where elfe (to make Ufe of a common Proverb) an upftart Fellow thinks that others are not worthy to look at him. Every one ftudies his own Profit ; the Poor labour for a Week, and fquander in one Day all they

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have

have earned in six ; from thence arises the Profit of the Publick-houses, which flourish every Day : The rich spend their Time in seeing their Slaves work to improve their Lands, and get Money, which they spend in Plays, Balls and Feasts ; but the most common Pastime of the highest as well as lowest, and even of the Slaves, is Women ; so that if there are 500 Women married, or unmarried in *New Orleans*, including all Ranks, I don't believe, without Exaggeration, that there are ten of them of a blameless Character ; as for me, I know but two of those, and even they are privately talked of. What I say of *New Orleans*, I say of the whole Province, without being guilty of Slander or Calumny. Laws are observed here much in the same Manner as in *France*, or worse : The rich Man knows how to procure himself Justice of the Poor, if the Affair is

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is to his Advantage ; but if the poor Man is in the right, he is obliged to enter into a Composition ; if the rich is in the wrong the Affair is stifled. They deal fairly with such as are very sharp-sighted : As the King is at a great Distance, they make him provide Victuals, Arms and Cloathing for the Troops, which those who keep the Offices or Magazines, sell, and put the Money in their own Pockets ; the poor Soldier, for whom they were designed, never so much as seeing them.

LET us now take a View of what relates to the Table. Those who have not much Money are seldom without Wine in their Cellars ; the Tradesman is seldom a Week without drinking it beyond Moderation ; but that is nothing in comparison with the Soldier : I must here give you a short Detail of his Life, as I

can do it better than another. That the Reader may the better comprehend the Expence of his way of living, I shall set down the Price the Soldier pays for Eatables and Drinkables at a Tavern. Liquors are a Pistole a Bottle ; Brandy three Livres fifteen Sols ; Rum and Wine fifty Sols ; Bread twelve Sols a Pound ; Butcher's Meat six Sols ; a sucking Pig 100 Sols , a Turkey three or four Livres ; a Goose, fifty Sols ; a Duck twenty-five ; a Teal twelve ; a small Sallad thirty ; and if one will pass a Quarter of an Hour with a Female, white, red, black or tawny, you must reckon upon a Bill of fifty Sols. Now let us see the Soldier's Life : What a rare Subject for a Favourite of the Muses ! But as I am not so, I will describe it in a plain Manner, as I have done in all the Articles, which you, perhaps, have just been reading.

A Short Account of the Soldier's Life in Louisiana.

DRINK *without Thirst* awaking in the Morning, and rubbing his Eyes with his two Fists, cries out with a masculine Voice, *Who will drink a Dram with me?* His inseparable Companion, *Drink for ever*, immediately answers, tho' half asleep, *I will: Run to Wine and Thirsty* leap out of Bed directly, and join them: There's a Party made of four, who fly to the Liquor Magazine; each takes a Chair; a Bottle of the golden Liquor makes its Appearance upon a Table sufficiently dirty, encompassed with four Glasses, which are quickly filled, and as soon emptied: In a short Time the Bottle is empty also; then comes in another, succeeded by a third, and that followed

lowed by a fourth. Thus my four Squires have each got a Bottle of Brandy in his Paunch ; this is only to begin with. *'Twould be a Shame,* cries *Thirsty* with a loud Voice, *to come to the Tavern for this Trifle, let's have some Wine:* Some Wine is unanimously ecchoed by all the jovial Company: The Wine's brought in ; each of them swallows down two or three Bottles, and then they talk of Breakfast: No Time is lost, the Cloth is laid, and they eat, not forgetting to drink plentifully. *Pinta trahit Pintam, post Pintam Pinta revertit.*

THEY grow warm, talk of War ; one takes the Fort of the *Chicacas* ; this cuts them to Pieces, that poisons them, another burns them ; Night approaches ; one sleeps upon the Table, another smoaks, the third sings, and the fourth talks very much,
very

very loud, and says nothing; a charming Sight ! The Landlady would go to Bed, but the Drunkards won't leave the House for fear of being put into Prison, because the Barracks are shut up ; the Landlady cries, the Soldiers swear, and at last are permitted to pass the Night there; they get a Supply of Wine, and drink or sleep upon the Floor, or upon a Bench, till Morning, when they begin in the same Manner as the Day before, and so go on for a Week or Fortnight, till they have no Money left. From the Tavern they go to the House of some good-natured Lady, and demolish the Furniture, or else return to their Quarters, and so ends that Debauch. The next Day they are either very sick, or very sorry that they have not wherewithal to begin again. All who have Money follow the same Course ; so that the Taverns are never without Soldiers ;

diers ; and I have seen some of them for whole Months together without being sober.

THE Reader, perhaps, will ask me, how they manage to be able to spend so much ? The Difficulty is not hard to resolve ; most of them work, and they spend in a Fortnight what they have been six Months earning. That is not what I am surprised at ; but what I can't conceive, is, how they can bear such excessive Drinking ; for I have seen some intirely out of their Senses for whole Months together, drinking nothing but Brandy all the Time, and in that Condition cohabit with distempered Women, and yet they are fat, ruddy, and enjoy excellent Health : This is above my Comprehension ; I therefore proceed to something else.

IN the upper Part of the Country, towards the *Illinois*, besides Wine and Brandy, they have a wild Grape, with which they make, as I am told, a small fowrish Wine ; they also extract a Sirrup from a certain Tree, which is called Erable, by making Incisions therein, out of which this Sirrup runs, without damaging the Tree ; and 'tis a very good Liquor by Report of those who have tasted it. There is Wheat also among the *Illinois*, but not enough to supply the Province with Flower. There is Meat at the Shambles every Day, Beef, Veal and Mutton. Wild Beef, and all Sorts of wild Fowl are only eaten in the Winter, but that does not prevent the killing Meat constantly at the Shambles. Pork is also a common Food ; every body rears it, even the Slaves ; and they rear Fowls also.

As the Ground is very soft, a Plow is seldom used, but it is dug by the Slaves ; and those whose Ground is hard enough for the Plow, make Use of Oxen ; they are also used in the Carriages, the Horses being only fit for riding ; and even for that, they are but little esteemed, they are so very small.

LOUISIANA, in its full Extent, contains above 800 Leagues of Country, but it is far from being all inhabited. I have mentioned above the Posts to the East of *Mobile*. Let us now begin at the Mouth of the River *Mississippi*. There is a Fort to the Eastward by the Sea Side, called *Balise*, where there is a commanding Officer and a Garrison, and by which Ships enter into the River. Thirty Leagues from *Balise*, one begins to find Habitations on both Sides the River,

River, at the Distance of a League or two from each other. It is ten Leagues from the first Habitation to *New Orleans* : The Habitations above that Place are half a League or a League from each other. Ten Leagues above the Town is a Post called the *Germans*, because inhabited by *German* Families : There is a *French* commanding Officer and a small Garrison. Thirty Leagues higher is *Pointe Coupée*, where there is a commanding Officer and a small Garrison, with some Inhabitants. One hundred Leagues higher, are the *Nakchas*, which about twenty Years ago was the best settled Part of the Colony ; but the Savages, who gave Name to that Country, revolted, and in the Night surpris'd, and either massacred or burnt the *Frenchmen*, and made all the Women Slaves. Perhaps the Reader won't be sorry to have an Account of their Cruelty, which I have learnt from

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some of those Women, who now live at *New Orleans*, and with whom I am well acquainted.

THE barbarous *Nakchas* regarded neither Age nor Sex ; they burnt at *Cadre* all the Men whom they took alive ; they destroyed the Children and the Women with Child, whom they looked upon as an Encumbrance, and made Slaves of the others, among whom were several Officer's Wives. Those poor Wretches suffered unheard-of Torments ; the most cruel of which was, being forced to yield to the brutish Passions of their Masters : What more shocking for a Christian and virtuous Woman ! They were employed in carrying Water, cutting and carrying Wood, pounding Mahis, making *Sagamité* and baking it : They had nothing to live upon but the Scraps which those Monsters of Nature threw to them, as to Dogs,
and

and so little, that what supported them for a Day was hardly sufficient for one Meal. In this Condition those unfortunate *Frenchwomen* remained for two or three Years, exposed to be cruelly beat for the slightest Faults : They were at last ransomed, but some of them carrying, with the Female Sex, a manly Heart and Courage, saved themselves by killing their Tyrants. By Degrees the *Nacchas* were destroyed ; however, there are still a few of them left among the *Chicachas*, whom these last promise to give up alive or dead.

THIS Post is towards the North, and has a commanding Officer and a Garrison, with three or four Inhabitants. From thence comes the best Tobacco of the Country. The Soil is very good, and very agreeable, there being prodigious fine Meadows and Mountains, insomuch that it
looks

looks like a little *France*. From thence the Course of the River leads to the South, where you find the *Natchitouches* ; from whom you proceed to *New Mexico*, where there are Mines of Gold Dust. To go from the *Nackas* to the *Illinois*, and to *Canada*, you must quit the River *Mississippi*, and enter upon the *Red River* ; and from that, upon others, where you find the *Tonicas*, the *Arcansas*, the *Atacapas*, the *Avoyelles*, the *Carcassias*, and the *Illinois*, and higher up the *Panis*, the *Nicanies*, the *Missouris*, the *Ouyas*, and the River *Ouabache*, &c.

THE Country of the *Illinois* is full of Mountains, from which they get Stones fit for building Houses. There is a commanding Officer and two Companies of 50 Men each, who supply the neighbouring Posts. The *Illinois* lie far to the North, facing
the

the Gulph of *Mexico* ; so that if one could go thither from *Balisle* directly cross the Woods, without going up the *Mississippi*, it would save near 400 Leagues, There are Iron and Lead Mines among the *Illinois*. They make Salt in Leaden Kettles, and get Water for it out of the neighbouring Lakes, which are saltish.

As to what relates to Game, it is open and allowed to every body ; it not being possible to make Inclosures in the Woods, where the game Haunt. The Dearness of the Bread, worth 16 Sols 8 Deniers a Pound, that Country Money does not hinder the Poor from eating it tho' they make some Rice, which is much cheaper, and is the ordinary Food of the low Sort of People. The Slaves are fed with Rice, or with Mahis husked and boiled, which is called *Sagamité*.

WE have no proper Fairs ; the Slaves are sold from one Person to another, or by Auction. There are very few savage Slaves. because we are at Peace with all the Nations ; those we have, were taken in former Wars, and we keep them. Our Negroes are procured from the Islands, or from *Guinea*.

PERHAPS the Reader will be glad to know what we do with our Paper Notes when they are much worn : We sew them up, or when they are too old, we carry them back to the Treasury, and get New Ones.

THE Forces are pretty well kept ; they have a compleat Cloathing every two Years, and Part of a Cloathing every Year ; but 'tis not very faithfully distributed ; for out of three Cloathings the Commissaries make Shift

Shift to get one. They have pretty fine Ammunition Bread, One half Pound a Day, and ten Pound of salt Pork a Month. The Money to be paid them after deducting Off-Reckonings come to 29 Sols, 6 Deniers *per* Month, which the King directs to be paid in *French* Money ; but, instead of that, they give them Paper Notes, which amount only to 14 Sols, 9 Deniers of *France*, the rest goes into the Commissaries Pockets.

THE Country was at first settled by leud good for nothing People, sent from *France* by Force ; afterwards by young People who went thither by Choice, and by young People who had no Fathers, taken, with their own Good-will, out of the Hospitals at *Paris* and *l'Orient*. At present no Women are sent there against their Will. Sometimes false Coiners and Smugglers are sent thither, but they

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are free in the Country, and work for themselves ; and even those of them who chuse to enter among the Troops, are received there, provided they have not passed thro' the Hands of Justice.

THE mechanick Arts flourish : The King sends Workmen for building and repairing his Ships : He entertains Seamen there, and Workmen in Wood and Iron.

As this Country belongs to the King, the Company has no Office there ; however, they keep an Agent, who pays himself out of old Debts, and enriches himself, tho' the Company gets little.

THE Youth here are employed in hunting, fishing and pleasuring ; very few learn the necessary Sciences, or at best it is what is least attended to.

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The Children, even of the best Sort, know how to fire a Musket or shoot an Arrow, catch Fish, draw a Bow, handle an Oar, swim, run, dance, play at Cards, and understand Paper Notes, before they know their Letters or their God. A Child of six Years of Age knows more here of raking and swearing than a young Man of 25 in *France*; and an insolent Boy of 12 or 13 Years of Age will boldly insult, and strike an old Man.

THE different Ranks of People here, are the Governor, the Commissary Director (for he has not the Title of Intendant) the King's Lieutenant, the Major, the military Officers, the Council, the Officers of the Quil, the Milita Officers, the Troops and the People.

I desire the Reader to consider that I do not pretend to give this as a

studied Piece, my Design is to gratify the Curiosity of some Persons who have done me the Honour to desire an Account of the Country where I am, which I have done plainly and ingeniously. As to the Manners and Customs of the People, I relate them as they are ; and if any Part seems satirical, it does not proceed from Malice, I could not suppress it, without betraying the Truth. I might, indeed, have a little more spared those whom I find occasion to censure ; but I speak my Mind freely, and like another *Des-Preaux* (the Comparison is a little rash) I give every Thing its proper Appellation ; and I do positively affirm that in this Country

A Disregard to Heaven's shewn ; the Judges
partial are :

Honesty is quite despised ; and common are the
Fair.

THO'

THO' I have so little Indulgence for others, I beg my Readers to have some for me, and upon Account of my Sincerity, honour me with their Favour.

From Monsieur Vaudreuil, Governor of New Orleans, to the Commissary Director of the Marine at Canada, dated 1 March, 1744.

I Should be very sorry to miss any Opportunity to assure you of my sincere Esteem: I am very much obliged to you for your Care in letting me hear from you by the *Illinois*. I received your Letter in *September*; it came within three Months, which we reckon a quick Passage. I am pleased to hear you still enjoy your Health, for which I do assure you I shall ever
be

be concerned. I am obliged to you for your Promise of Friendship to Mr. *Gamelin de St. Francis* ; his Affection to me, and for what relates to the Settlement of my Lordship. According to what you do me the Honour to write to me, Mr. *de Maurepas* manages very ill, I could not have thought it, however I don't wonder, being led by a Family who have occasioned Misfortunes to many an honest Person. Mr. *Hoguart* has, no doubt, put an End to his Confusions, and his Conceit. I enjoy a perfect Health.

It is but three Days since I returned from *Mobile*, where I spent three Months, and supported many Attacks on the Part of all the Savages of this Continent, who came to see me, and I made them the customary Presents. I saw at least 3000 of them, of different Nations, whom
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it was necessary to satisfy, which as we well know is no easy Matter ; but, God be thanked, every thing succeeded extreamly well, and even beyond the Expectation of this Colony. To judge by Appearances, I hope, before three Months are at an End, to give the Country Rest, and make a general Peace with all the Nations ; and then this Colony will become very flourishing. It is the finest Climate in the World ; the Seasons are very regular, the Country very healthful : It is hot for four Months, which are *June, July, August* and *September*, and the rest a perpetual Spring : We make Fires between four and five Months : The Land is very fruitful, and produces surprisngly : The People cultivate Indigo much, which succeeds very well : Trade becomes considerable ; there is not a Year passes but above twenty Sail of Ships come from *St. Domingo* and *Martini-*
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nico, and they carry back Wood of all Sorts, which is wanted in those Islands; there come only 3 or 4 Ships from *France*, besides the King's Ship: They all do pretty well. The Neighbourhood of the *Spaniards* is very advantageous to this Country; we draw from them at least a Million a Year in Piaſtres, and every one comes in for his Share. Nothing is wanted but Negroes, and they begin to bring some of them this Year. I have had four of them for my Fees. I hope there will be an Increase; I have most need of it, on Account of the Purchase I have made of a Plantation which coasts me 30000 *Liv.* to be paid in four Years, on which there are 34 strong well-made Negroes, all Manner of Buildings, and even a fine Dove-house stock'd with above 100 Pidgeons, 57 Oxen and Cows, as many Sheep, and the rest in Proportion. There are 180 Arpens of grubb'd
up

up *tilled* Land ploughed and sowed ; I have built, with Bricks, ten Vats to make Indigo, and hope the Produce of four Years will pay the Principal. Provisions being dear occasioned my buying this Plantation, and if you will live in this Place you must have one ; besides, I had it almost for nothing. I was offered, before I laid out any Thing upon it, *Liv.* 15000 more than I am to give. I think I have made a good Bargain. Mrs. *le Verrier* is highly obliged to you for your kind Remembrance ; she has been happy in a very good State of Health ; does not repent her Voyage ; desires her Service, and her Son his Respects to you. Pray make mine acceptable to Mr. and Mrs. *Begon*, Mr. *Robert*, whom I love and esteem infinitely ; and to Mrs. *Repentigni* I am in these same Sentiments,

S I R,

Your most humble, and most obliged Servant,

VAUDREUIL.

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From

From Monsieur Vaudreuil, Governor of New Orleans, to his Brother, dated 1. March, 1744.

DEAR BROTHER,

I Take, with the greatest Pleasure imaginable, this Opportunity to assure you of my tender Affection towards you. I have been extreamly well ever since the King's Ship's Departure. I returned but three Days ago from *Mobile*, where I spent near three Months, hearing all the Harangues of the *Chaſta Savages*, and others, and distributing to them their annual Presents; I never saw so much Tractableness in any Nation as in that; I did what I pleased with them, which has surpris'd Numbers of People, who expected I should meet with insurmountable Difficulties. I must tell you, dear Brother, that when I came here, the *Chickasas* had taken seven or eight *Frenchmen* in the River of the *Arcansas*, killed one, and carried away the rest into Slavery home to their Villages: As soon as they heard of my Arrival in this Colony, they sent me back all our *Frenchmen*, with the great Flag and a Wand of Peace, begging I would have Compassion of them, and grant them Peace, promising they would for ever adhere to me, even more than any other Nation

Nation of this Continent. They added, that they knew me to be the Son of a mighty Chief, who had long governed the northern People, and made them all happy; that they hoped, I would shew the same Regard for those of this Continent; and that if I favoured them, they would be more attached to the *French* than any other Nation; and a thousand Things, one stronger than another. I gave them to understand, that I was satisfied with them, but that I would not determine any Thing without the Consent of the *Chaktas*, our good Allies, with whom I would prevail to grant them the Peace they desired, upon Condition they would drive the *English* out of their Country, who were the Authors of their Misfortunes, and were of a dangerous Spirit, always endeavouring to embroil all the World, and aimed at nothing so much as the Destruction of the red Men. They finally answered me, That they would accept of the Condition, and would drive the *English* away, and never receive them more. In consequence of which, I spoke to the *Chaktas* (which is the Nation it is most our Interest to manage) who left it to me, either to make Peace or War; and said, they would attend my Orders, and always conform themselves to my Desire; so that if the *Chicachas* execute the Conditions they

have proposed to me, the Peace will be general in this Country before two Months are at an End, and this Place will become very considerable. It is capable of being made the finest Colony the King has in the World. It does not become me to blame the Conduct of others, but many an unpardonable Fault has been committed : I proceed directly opposite in many Things, and succeeded perfectly well : I found they were to be resolutely spoken to, and I acted accordingly. The Red Shoes was the humblest of them all, and I regarded him less than any other Chief at *Medaille*. They had given him too much Authority in his Nation ; I endeavoured to lessen it, by retrenching from his Government the eight Villages lying to the West, as also the *Chacchoumas*, and I have taken them to my self : I defy him now to do any Harm, and I strongly assured him, before all the Chiefs at *Medaille*, and the Warriors of the whole Nation, that the very first Complaint I should have of him, I would retrench his present, and deprive him of my Table. He became more humble for all this, and promised Wonders. There has not any thing remarkable happened in this Colony since my last, which I sent by Mr. *d'Alcourt*, I informed you of the Views I had for Mr. *de Bicnville's* Plantation ; the Purchase

chase was 20000 Livres, payable in two Years, on Condition that Mr. de *Maurepas* should favour me in regard to your Draughts. In the mean time I tenanted it of him for 100 Pounds. As that Plantation was destitute of Negroes and ploughing Oxen, and I had nothing of what is necessary to improve it. I found I was bubbled; this determined me to buy that of Mr. *Gautreau*, who is going over to settle in *France*. I am to pay in four Years 30000 Livres for it in four Payments made in *France* at the Rate of 7600 Livres each Year, beginning this present at the Return of the King's Ship. As I make no doubt but Mr. de *Maurepas* will grant me Bills of Exchange in the Distribution that will be made of them, I thought I ought not to hesitate a Moment in concluding the Bargain. There are upon that Plantation twenty-eight Negroes, most of whom know some Trade: If I was willing to sell them, I could get for them above the Sum I have agreed for. It is a very good Settlement well stock'd with all Manner of Utensils. This is not to be wonder'd at coming out of the Hands of a Warehouse Keeper. There are * 57 Horn Cattle, as many Sheep, a fine Dove-house well stock'd with Pidgeons, and all the rest in Proportion;

* The Author says *Betes a Corne*, by which he means Cows and Oxen.

tion; as much House as is convenient upon that Plantation. Add to this * 200 Arpens of arable Land, part of which is plough'd and sown, and the rest set apart to make Indigo. I expect that the Produce of this Plantation will bring each Year 7500 *Liv.* that I am to pay ; besides, a Plantation is a very useful Thing in this Place where Provisions are extreamly dear ; if I would have sold it I might for 10000 Livres Profit ; by this you may see I have got a good Bargain. The four Negroes I had of Mr. *de Alcourt* for my Fees, I have placed upon that Plantation : This will considerably increase every Year, if Things prosper, as I hope they will, all will go well ; I'll neglect nothing to clear me of this Business : I know too well what it is to be in Debt ; therefore will take Care for the future to be free. I never could have done any Thing with Mr. *de Bienville's* Plantation ; besides the Badness of the Ground, we run the Risk of losing your Negroes by often crossing the River ; whereas that I have purchased, being but one League from the Town, I'll often walk there, and benefit by the little Exercise. I don't question but you'll approve of my Purchase ; the Produce whereof will increase greatly. The Present will
come

* *Argent*, a French Measure of Land, containing 100 square Poles or *Perches*, 160 to an Acre.

come to you by the Hands of Mr. *Rasteaux*, who made a bad Voyage to *Vera Cruce*, his Ship having been seized, he was obliged to give 14000 Piaſtres to have her back, and to give Security for the ſame. His Brother is left at that Place ; I am truly ſorry for it ; ſtill more ſo on Account of the Chevalier *d'Aubigny*, who gave him a little Venture, which I am afraid he'll loſe, as he made but a bad Voyage : This Loſs will go hard upon him, I am exceedingly concerned at it. *Rasteaux* told me, he had ſold my Nephew's Watch, and that he would pay him at his Return. I ſhan't have Time to write to any of them by this Opportunity ; pray remember my Love to them : I don't think the King's Ship will come here before the End of *April* ; I ſhall wonder if ſhe comes ſooner, however, I ſhould not be ſorry for it. I muſt tell you, dear Brother, I am extreamly impatient to hear from you. I wiſh you Health and Content ; you'll never enjoy ſo much as I wiſh you. Mrs. *le Verrier* has had a good State of Health ; ſhe gives her Service, and aſſures me ſhe will writeto you with as much good Will as I do. Believe me wholly, and a thouſand times more yours than I am to my ſelf,

Your Brother de Vaudreuil.

From

*From the Governor of New Orleans, to the
Governor of Canada.*

S I R,

WITH true Pleasure I have receiv'd the Letter you honour'd me with of the Third of last *June* by the *Illinois*, it came in three Months Time, by the Orders you had given to the *Sieur Bestet*.

I am sensible of the Part you have taken in promoting my Brother in the King's Regiment.

It is very agreeable to me to find that you have conceiv'd such an Idea of the Means that I may take to procure this Colony, the Tranquility that it greatly wants, you furnish me with these Means, Sir, when you give me the Assurances you do. I shall labour to succeed and answer your Expectations, and shall acquaint you with what passes in Regard to the Savage Nations, being perswaded, that on your side, you will refuse me no Assistance that may tend to bring this Work about, which cannot be otherwise than extreme difficult, by the many Abuses that have crept among them for a great while.

I DID my self the Honour to inform you, the 19th of *August* last, by way of the *Illinois*, and the 24th of the same Month, by the way of *France*, of the Situation in which I found the Affairs of this Country, at my Arrival; and what means I intended to make use of to remedy what was amiss: I also acquainted you of an Attempt the *Chichacas* had made in *May* last, upon a *French Pirogue*, on the Banks of the *Mississippi*, 40 Leagues above the River of the *Tazoux*s.

THE *Chicachas* have since returned me, at different times, three *French Men*, a *French Woman*, and a *Savage* of our Allies, whom they had taken in the *Pirogue*; and they wrote to me by the Prisoners, in the most moving manner; to engage me to grant them Peace; that they knew I was the Son of a mighty Chief, who had so long governed all the Nations of the North, and had made them happy, which gave them Hopes that I would pity them, by restoring them Life, which they had not enjoyed for many Years. They also came several Times to our Fort of the *Halibamons*, to desire the Commander of the Post to write to me in their Favour, and to let me know, that if I would procure them Peace, they

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would

would drive the *English* from them, and would receive such Persons to treat as I should think fit to appoint. They have, in the last Place, sent me a white Flag and a Wand of Peace, which I found at *Mobile* on my Arrival there; and they sent me Word, they would repair in a short Time to the *Halibamons*, to know my last Resolution. Immediately I sent an Express to the Commander of the Post of the *Halibamons*, to let them know, in case they were come for my Answer, that I was highly pleased with their present Disposition; that the *English* were the Cause of all their Misfortunes, and that they were taking proper Measures to preserve the Peace I was endeavouring to procure for them, in resolving to drive the *English* out of their Country, and to receive none but *French* to treat with; and that, as soon as this Condition should be performed, I would send for the Chiefs and principal People of their Nation, after I should settle the Peace with the *Chaëtis*, my Children, who were suddenly expected at *Mobile*, and whom I would influence in their Favour, and engage them to send my Views of making Peace for all, and unite their Interests. In Consequence of this, I held a general Assembly at *Medaille*, Jan. 29. of the six principal Chiefs, and other considerable Leaders, and principal Warriors

Warriors of the several Villages of the *Chactas* Nation, with which I was entirely satisfied.

I FOUND them very different from what I had been told : They are tractable Savages, and strongly attached to the French ; of which they gave me a Proof in the Council I assembled. in relation to the Peace the *Chicachas* sue for.

I MADE a Speech to them, in which I gave a Relation of all the Steps that the *Chicachas* had taken with me, to obtain Peace ; and observing that it was not proper to grant it till they had performed their Promises of driving out the *English* ; they answered me, in the Name of their whole Nation, that having a better Insight into Affairs, and knowing the Red Men and their Interests better than themselves, they referred themselves to whatever I should judge best to determine, either as to Peace or War ; that they had no other Will than mine, to which they would submit in every thing ; and that they would contentedly remain in their Villages for my Orders, where they were in haste to return, lest their Wives and Children should suffer by their Absence.

AFTER I had expressed the Satisfaction I had received from their Manner of acting in these nice Circumstances, I told them, that as soon as the *Chicachas* had driven away the *English*, I would give them Peace, but that without that Condition, I could not resolve to do so ; being persuaded, that it would be of no use, and that they would not long observe it. I also added, that as the *Chicachas* had fixed a time to come to the *Halibamons*, to acquaint me with their final Resolution, which was not yet expired ; and as themselves were pressing to return to their Villages, I would advise them to a Suspension of Arms, till I knew whither the *Chicachas* had drove out the *English* from them ; for which purpose I was going to send an Express, at whose Return I would let them know, whether it was Peace or War. That in case of Peace, it ought to be a solid one ; that they should not break it without acquainting me with their Reason, and without my Consent ; but on the contrary, if War should be continued, they should push it more vigorously than ever, in order to oblige that Nation to keep its Word, and to perform my Will.

THE *Chaftas* very much approved of what I faid, and promifed entirely to conform, referving however to themfelves the Right of Defence, during the Suspension of Arms, and even of vigorously repelling the *Chicachas* if they prefumed to attack them in their hunting Places or Villages, which I very much approved of.

I ACTED in this Manner, Sir, to fhew the *Chicachas*, that it only depends upon me to procure the Peace they have fo earneftly defired; and to let them know at the fame Time, that I will not grant it till they have driven the *Engliſh* out of their Country, without which the Peace could be of no Uſe to them, and prejudicial to us all.

BEFORE the *Chaftas* were departed from *Mobile*, I received an Exprefs from the *Halibamons*, by which I was informed that the *Chicachas* were not yet arrived there. The appointed Time indeed was not expired when the Exprefs came away; but as, in *November* laſt, a Party of *Chaftas* meeting with an *Engliſh* Convoy upon the Road between *Carolina* and the Country of the *Chicachas*, plundered it, and killed three *Engliſhmen*, and two *Chicachas*: I apprehend, that this Affair, which muſt have provoked
the

the *English*, has engaged them to use their utmost Endeavours with the *Chicachas* to prevent their making Peace with us and the *Chaftas* ; for since that Stroke, the *Chicachas* have not returned to the *Halibamons* ; so that I am still in Uncertainty with Regard to them. If they come 'tis well ; it will be a Sign that they are for a solid Peace, by driving the *English* from them ; if, on the contrary, I hear nothing by the Time prescribed, I will cause them to be harder pushed than ever ; for which I depend much upon the *Chaftas*, who grow warlike, and who have promised to execute my Orders.

As I know your Inclinations to concur in what's for the Good of the Service, it will be proper to engage your Nations to fall upon them with more Vigour than ever. I know that they are much afraid of them, and it will be the certain Way to bring them to Reason, in case they should break their Word with me. I beg, Sir, you will please to give me your Orders accordingly.

I RECEIVED Advice of an Action committed against them last Summer by the Savages of the North ; of which, perhaps, they had never seen the like : It was of a famous *Chicacha*, who was killed in Sight of their Villages ; whose Heart they tore out, and cut

cut him Limb from Limb. This Proceeding, I am informed, spread Terror amongst them, and had a great Share in the last Step they took to sue for Peace with so much Earnestness.

IF these Savages persist in their Suit, and abandon the *English*, I shall not hesitate to give them Peace ; and in that Case they will undoubtedly insist upon the northern People's leaving off Hostilities against them. For which Purpose, and in order to give you Advice of it, I will immediately send an Express to carry Necklaces to the upper Nations, to engage them to stop the Passages, and that you may give your Orders accordingly ; and to the End that we may be able to act jointly for the Good of the Service, by procuring to this Colony the Tranquility it has need of ; and that we may draw from it all the Advantages it gives Hopes of, by the different Matters it contains of the greatest Consequence to Commerce ; every Thing thrives abundantly in a Climate which is, perhaps, the finest in the World : It is a perpetual Spring, excepting four Months hot Weather, which however are tolerable.

I HAVE found this Country far different from what it was represented ; had I known
what

what I now do, I should not have given myself, Sir, so much Trouble about coming hither. My Health has been a little impaired on my Arrival, but now enjoy it to Perfection. I have Hopes that I shall serve *Cannada* without any Inconveniency.

I SUFFER, Sir, no Troubles on Account of Mr. *Amand de Rigaud* ; I was well persuaded of your Concerns for them ; it was not necessary that you should give me new Assurances, they even praise the obliging Terms you employ with them. Permit, that, on my Part, I give my most humble Thanks for the same, as also for the Share you take in what relates to me, I have requested the Continuance, by offering you my Services in this Country, I flatter myself that I may be able to be of some Advantage to you : I entreat you to give me all Opportunities to shew my Acknowledgments for your Civilities to my Brother ; I hope you will continue them to him, as likewise to Mr. *Lautagnac*, and to all those that I am interested in. I was charmed to hear that you have procured a Post for Mr. *Gattinaut*. He has acquainted me with his Obligations to you : I will not recommend this Matter any more, since I find you omit no Opportunity to serve my Friends and me. I am obliged to you, Sir,
for

for the Account you have been pleased to give me of my Country. I shall be glad, as often as you do me this Favour; and it will do me the greater Pleasure, as by that Means I may expect, Sir, to know the State of your Health, in which I am entirely interested: Do me the Justice to be convinced of this, and believe me to be with the greatest Respect,

S I R,

Your most humble, and

most obliged Servant,

Vaudreuil.

A joint Letter from the Governor and Commissary of the Marine at New Orleans; dated the 15th of February, 1744, to the Count de Maurepas.

My LORD,

YOU will see, by a Letter from Mons.
de Vaudreuil, the Disposition in which he found the Savages during his Stay at *Mobile*. Nevertheless that will not hinder us from laying our joint Observations before you. The *English* have many Years pro-
H
fited

sited by the Inability we have constantly lain under, to supply all the Goods necessary for the Consumption of the Savages of this Country. We have often promised to furnish them, but have not been able to do it. Most of them insinuated in their Speeches to Monsieur *Vaudreuil*, that we had not kept our Word. This joined to the present Circumstances in regard to the *Chicachas*, if we make Peace in consequence of the Measures Monsieur *Vaudreuil* has taken upon that Head, still more strongly than ever, make us perceive the Necessity of providing a greater Quantity of trading Goods than what is sent yearly from *France* to settle proper Negotiators in the Country. Besides the *Chaouanons*, heretofore settled in *Canada*, and very well known to Monsieur *de Vaudreuil*, are come to settle among the *Alibamons*; we might also furnish their Wants, and, by Degrees, penetrate among the *Caouïtas*, *Talapouches*, *Abecas*, and other Nations bordering upon the *Alibamons*: And we think that we might succeed in driving out the *English*, who have Magazines in that Part. They are very insinuating Neighbours, and so enterprizing, that we think no Tranquility can be expected till we have taken all Pretexts from the Savages of having Recourse to them. These are the Reasons that have prevailed upon Monsieur *de Vau-*

Vaudreuil to desire the Augmentation of trading Goods, mentioned in the annexed List, which we estimate will amount to 80,000 Livres of *France*. Tho' this Augmentation may seem large, it is proper to observe, that this Fund is but an Advance, and that it will return to the King as fast as the Goods are disposed of: Besides, if the Measures which *Monsieur de Vaudreuil* has taken to maintain good Orders, should have the Success we hope for, we flatter ourselves that your Lordship will not disapprove of the Charges that unavoidably attend the same. Last Year we addressed to your Lordship, by the Ship, the *Charente*, a Box filled with different Patterns of the Goods which the *English* sell to the Savages with an explanatory Memorandum. It is much to be wished, that those Patterns are conformed to, in the Goods we daily expect by the King's Ship.

L I S T of Trading Goods desired by Monsieur de Vaudreuil, in Addition to those annually sent for the Savages, which he judges necessary for the Service of the Colony in the present Year 1744, Viz.

Four Thousand Ells of *Limbourg*.

Four Thousand Shirts.

Four

Four Hundred trading Muskets.

Two Thousand Covers.

Two Thousand Girdles.

Two Hundred Pound Weight of Vermillion.

Four Hundred Pound Weight of Red-Lead.

One Thousand Kettles of different Sizes,
without Handles.

N. B. *It is proper to
lay out three thou-
sand Livres for
these Articles, and
to order, that the
whole be well sort-
ed.*

Knives

Scissars

Looking Glasses

Combs

Bricks

Small Bells

Alcines, Awls

Steels to strike Fire

Ear-rings

Rings

Iron & Copper Wire.

Yellow Thread Ferret, well sorted, for
about 15000 Livres.

Two Hundred Pieces of scarlet worsted
Ribbon.

Two Hundred Pieces of worsted Lace of
different Colours, to trim the Cloaths
of the Chiefs.

Ten Thousand Pound Weight of Gun-
Powder.

Twenty Thousand Pound Weight of Lead
and Ball.

Fifty Plumes of Feathers.

See Page 44. Read instead of a Wand.

Calumet, or Pipe of Peace (among the *Indians*) is a large Tobacco Pipe, made of red, black or white Marble; the Head is finely polish'd, and the Quill, which is commonly two Feet and a half long, is made of a pretty strong Reed or Cane, adorned with Feathers of all Colours, interlaid with Locks of Women's Hair: They tie to it two Wings of the most curious Birds they can find, which makes their *Calumet* somewhat resemble *Mercury's* Wand. This Pipe is a Pass and Safe Conduct amongst the Allies of the Nation who has given it; and in all Embassies the Ambassador carries it as the Symbol of Peace; and they are generally persuaded that a great Misfortune would befall them if they violated the publick Faith of the *Calumet*.

All their Enterprizes, Declarations of War, or Conclusions of Peace, as well as their other Ceremonies, are confirmed with this *Calumet*: They fill that Pipe with the best Tobacco they have, and present it to those with whom they have concluded any great Affair, and then smoak out of the same after them.

See *Sale's Voyages*, Pages 146, 7, 8, for a fuller Account of their Ceremonies of Peace.

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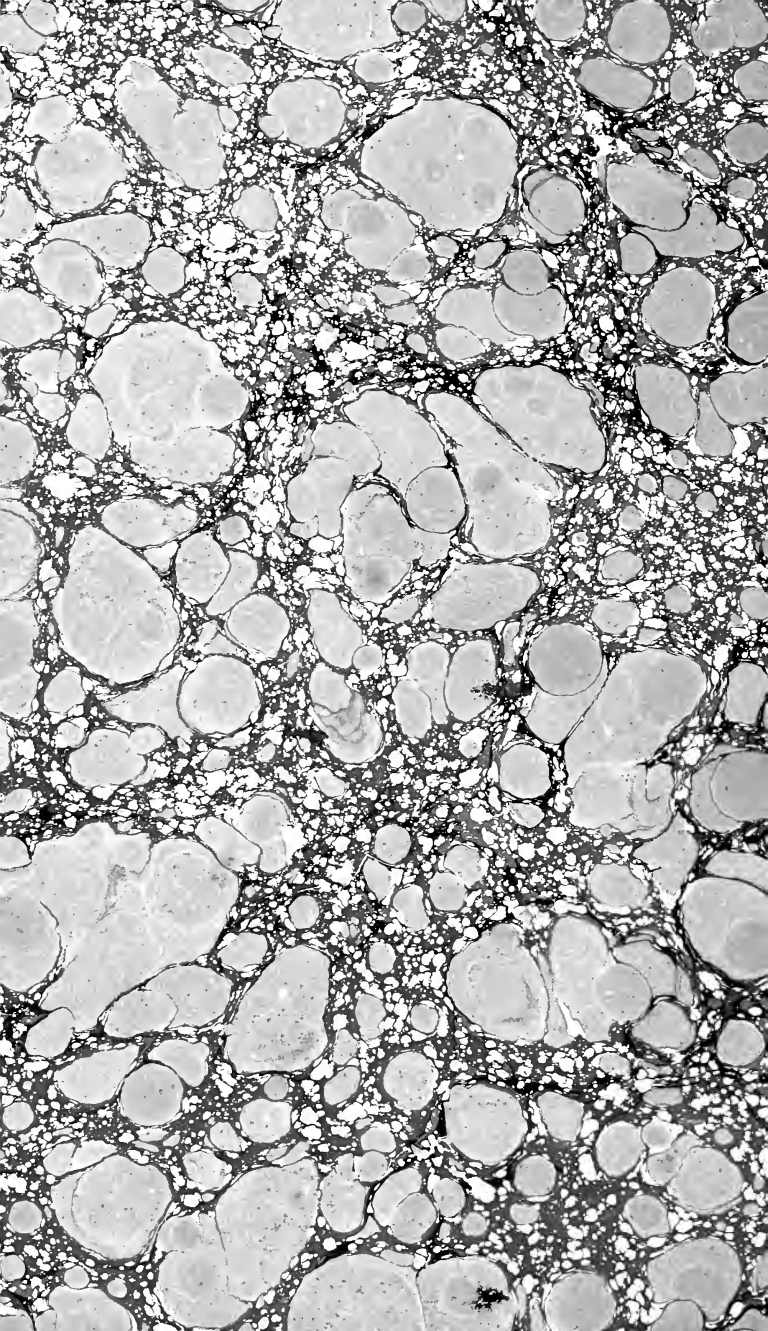
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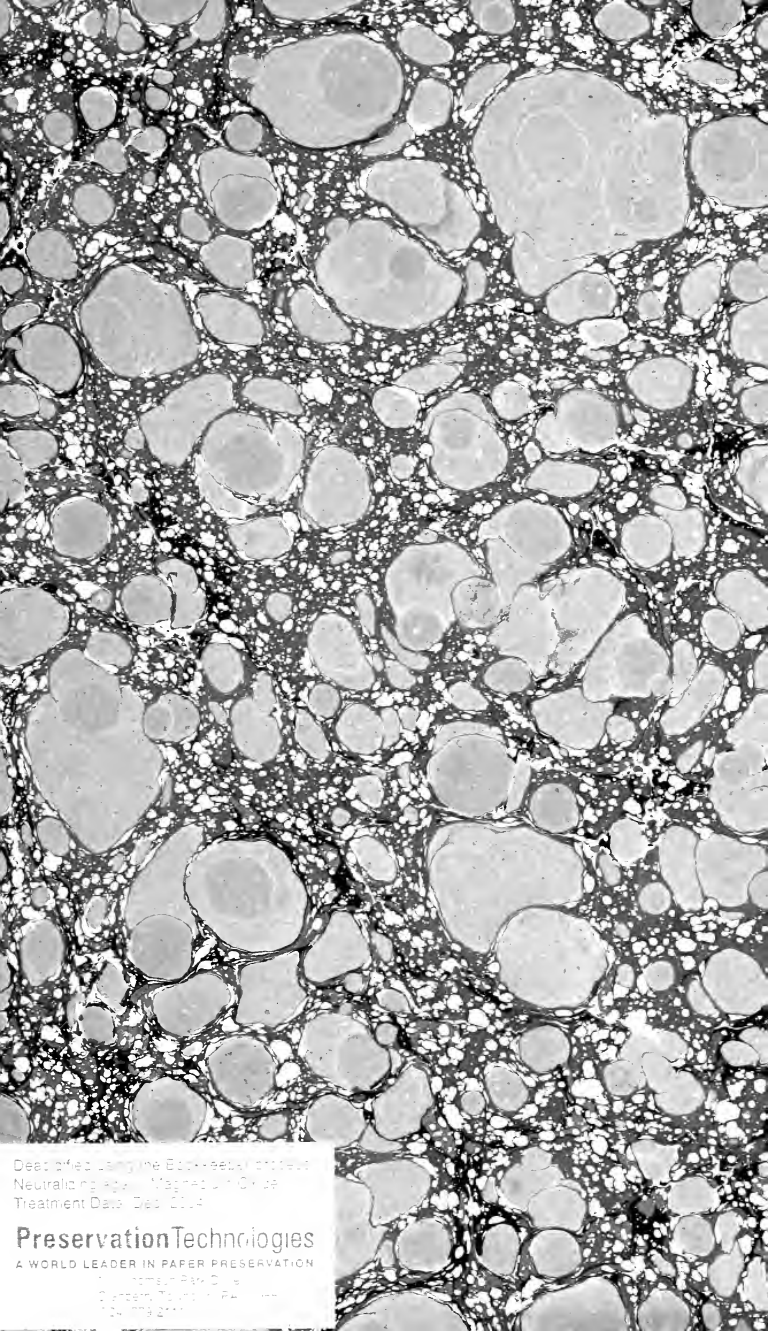
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